

It's about focusing on what's working, while we're fixing what's not.





## A special note from Nancy S. Grasmick

There are countless reasons for us to be proud of Maryland public schools. I can think of about 870,000 individual reasons (the number of students enrolled) and another 55,000 (the number of teachers and professional staff who strive every day to make a difference in the lives of those students). For all these reasons, it is our duty to share their stories of success and triumph, dedication and perseverance.

Too often we hear about the negative side of public education – the funding, the aging buildings, the scandals. These are the stories from which headlines and newscasts are made. But we rarely hear the other side. Plenty of public school students go on to achieve at high levels in colleges across the nation. Others move on to fulfilling careers and lives.

I hope you will join me in applauding the successes of Maryland public schools and will take it a step further by showing your PRIDE. Read on to learn more.

Proudly,

Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools  
Western High School Graduate  
Baltimore City Public Schools



# Show Your Pride!

## Why should you have PRIDE in Maryland Public Schools?

### Here are just a few reasons:

1. Maryland leads the nation in improving Advanced Placement (AP) performance.
2. Maryland leads the College Board's Middle States Region in SAT scores.
3. Public school test scores are up in all 24 districts.
4. Public school seniors were offered \$500 million in scholarships.
5. Maryland's students are among the best prepared in the nation for college.

There are many ways you can show your **PRIDE** in Maryland Public Schools, whether you're a teacher, a student, a parent, or a local business leader. Here's how:

- Tear off the nomination form on the back of this brochure and share a success story.
- Log on to [www.MarylandPublicSchools.org](http://www.MarylandPublicSchools.org) to read the most recent PRIDE Profiles and spread the word.
- E-mail [PRIDE@MarylandPublicSchools.org](mailto:PRIDE@MarylandPublicSchools.org) with a nomination or suggestion.
- Feature a **PRIDE** Profile in your company, community, or school newsletter. Just contact us and we'd be happy to share information on local and state success stories.
- Invite us to speak about **PRIDE**: Maryland Public Schools at your school, PTA meeting, or workplace.
- Distribute **PRIDE** materials in your school or workplace.
- Sponsor a **PRIDE** event in your community. Contact us for ideas.
- Become a **PRIDE** corporate or community sponsor to assist with in-kind or monetary **PRIDE** awards, scholarships, and other incentives.

## Black History Oratory Contest Winners

At the annual Black History Oratory Contest, 17 students from around the state recited their essays based on one of three inspirational quotations by Black leaders. The three winners are:

### Top Honors:

Tierra Patterson  
Western High School  
Baltimore City Public Schools

### Second Place:

Joseph Howard  
Bel Air High School  
Harford County Public Schools

### Third Place:

Khase Johnson  
Carver Vocational Technical High School  
Baltimore County Public Schools

# Profiles

### Denise Daniel, Parent

Harlem Park Elementary School  
Baltimore City Public Schools  
Nominated by Helen Davis, Harlem Park Elementary

"Ms. Daniel is a parent volunteer and a 'main-stay' at Harlem Park Elementary. According to school staff, 'her enthusiasm and dedication are hard to surpass.' Ms. Daniel will help out in the classroom, the office, the cafeteria, and she even helps out the school's custodial staff when needed. She also is known to cook for the staff if she thinks they need a lift. She will turn in any direction to help Harlem Park's students."

### Judy Dent, Principal

Patuxent Elementary School  
Prince George's County Public Schools  
Nominated by Michael Powell, Patuxent Elementary School

"As the leader of Patuxent Elementary School and a role model and mentor, Mrs. Dent has succeeded in closing the achievement gap. She has done this through various programs such as the Rallying the Village Initiative and, to date, this program has led to increased enrollment in the PTA, a parent liaison has been established in each classroom, there are parenting workshops for K-6, and fathers are meeting on a regular basis. In addition, 21 after-school programs have been established, the school is internationally recognized for environmental studies, and attendance has increased tremendously."

### Students of Swan Meadow School

Garrett County Public Schools  
Nominated by Patricia Mullinix, Garrett County Public Schools

"Thanks to the students of Swan Meadow School, Garrett County has officially adopted a county bird and wildflower. After their research and perseverance, the Eastern Bluebird and Wild Columbine were officially accepted as the County Bird and Wildflower. What an accomplishment!"

### Chris Horne, Ronnie Voigt, Jim Sniezek, Teachers

Space Day Team Leaders  
Walkersville Elementary School  
Frederick County Public Schools  
Nominated by the Maryland State Department of Education

"Thanks to the leadership of Mr. Horne, Mrs. Voigt, and Mr. Sniezek, two Space Day Teams from Walkersville Elementary School were the only teams in the entire state of Maryland to win at the International Space Day competition. Both teams won "Best Overall" in a competition that included nearly 300 entries from 23 states and two countries. *The Mighty Space Chefs* created a menu for a pre-teen astronaut and had to consider the nutrition needed for a pre-teen in space, including calories, vitamins, and taste. *The Golden Retrievers* created a tool to retrieve things in space by grabbing it at a certain distance and having it retract back to them. The Team Leaders joined their students at a NASA awards ceremony hosted by Senator/Astronaut John Glenn."

### Emily Hoffman, Student

Huntington High School  
Calvert County Public Schools  
Nominated by Judy Dobbs, Maryland Humanities Council

"A student at Huntington High School, Emily has researched and produced outstanding historical documentaries that have been recognized at the county, state, and national levels. Emily's video "Women Press Forward" examined the barriers broken by women reporters and featured a personal interview with Helen Thomas, former White House correspondent for United Press International. Emily interviewed former *Washington Post* editor Ben Bradlee for her documentary on the Pentagon Papers, and another documentary explored President Nixon's 1972 trip to China. Her work has been displayed at the National Archives in Washington, DC."

### Claudette A. Wellington, Art Teacher

Solley Elementary School  
Anne Arundel County Public Schools  
Nominated by Karen Broseker, Solley Elementary School

"Ms. Wellington orchestrated and executed Solley Elementary School's first school-wide 'The Artist In All Of Us' exhibit to ensure 'that every student be recognized as an artist.' It was a massive 12-month undertaking, and the work of more than 550 students was unveiled at the exhibit."

# A Special Thanks!

## Comcast, Business Partner PRIDE: Maryland Public Schools

would not be possible without the ongoing support of our lead business partner. Since 2004, Comcast has donated just over \$1 million worth of production and airtime for public service announcements featuring the accomplishments of Maryland students, teachers, and public schools. Through the *pro bono* assistance of Comcast, we are able to share success stories like those featured in this brochure and on our Web site, and to provide students with the important message that they should be proud of the schools they attend and the hard work they do.

